

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA

1. AS PART OF THE ACTIVITIES IN OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR (IAAY) 1978, A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON "OPPRESSION AND STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA" WAS HELD IN KINGSTON OVER THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 17-18. THE ORGANIZERS WERE THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE WEST INDIES IN COOPERATION WITH THE JAMAICAN NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE. THE CONFERENCE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER A. D. GADAU. AMONG THE FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE WERE LESLIE HARRIMAN, NIGERIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N., AND CHAIRMAN OF THE U.N.'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID, DR. FREDERICK DUBE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL AND HENRY ISAACS OF THE PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS. NATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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SECURITY MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON WAS THE SENIOR GOJ OFFICIAL PRESENT ALTHOUGH MESSAGES WERE READ FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND OPPOSITION LEADER. (THE GOVERNMENT WAS CRITICIZED BY ORGANIZERS OF AN EARLIER EFFORT FOR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE.) SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ATTENDED THE OPENING AND AMBASSADOR IRVING, THE ONLY WESTERN AMBASSADOR PRESENT, WAS ASKED TO SPEAK. THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR AND

MRS. IRVING CREATED QUITE A STIR AND
OFFICIALS OF THE
CONFERENCE WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SHOW HOW MUCH THEY
APPRECIATED U.S. PARTICIPATION.

2. IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE READ TO THE AUDIENCE,
MR. MANLEY SAID THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL LIBERATION
IN AFRICA COULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE BROADER STRUGGLE
FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER TO NARROW THE GAP
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS. (NOTE: PRIME MINISTER
MANLEY HAS BEEN INVITED TO BE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT
THE OCTOBER 11 U. N. FUNCTION CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR). A SIMILAR THEME WAS DEVELOPED IN
THE ADDRESS BY DR. LOCKSLEY EDMONSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON IAAY.

3. AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN SAID THAT PERIPHERAL ISSUES LIKE
"PEACE TALKS, NEW INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AND HOW TO FREE
NAMIBIA AND GIVE PART OF IT TO SOUGH AFRICA" HAVE DISTRACTED
ATTENTION FROM SOUTH AFRICA'S OPPRESSIVE REGIME AND VILLAINOUS
ROLE. HARRIMAN DESCRIBED AS ARROGANT WHAT HE CALLED NATO
ARRANGED EFFORTS FOR A PAN AFRICAN FORCE "TO SAVE AFRICA FROM
THE SCOURGE OF COMMUNISM, THE CUBANS AND THE SO-CALLED
MARXISTS." HE FURTHER STATED THAT IT WAS UNFAIR TO THE
AFRICANS, THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIET UNION TO CONDEMN THEIR
SUPPORT, AS IT WAS NOT "THE COMPLEXION OF THEIR IDEOLOGY,
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BUT THE CONTRIBUTION THEY HAVE MADE WHICH SHOULD BE THE
YARDSTICK BY WHICH WE JUDGE THEM."

4. IN THE SEGMENT ON "LIBERATION ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA," DR. FREDERICK DUBE, AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL,
ACCUSED THE WESTERN POWERS OF STALLING ON A SETTLEMENT ON
NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR OWN CAPITALIST
INTERESTS. HE FURTHER CRITICIZED SUPPLY OF ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA
AND NAMED ISRAEL, JORDAN AND IRAN AS SOURCES, AS WELL AS
NUCLEAR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE WESTERN POWERS AND SOUTH
AFRICA.

5. HENRY ISAACS, PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS, AND A FOUNDER MEMBER
OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, INSISTED THAT IN
THE NEW SCHEME OF THINGS, IN POST-LIBERATION AFRICA, BLACK
PEOPLE MUST BE THE LEADERS AND SYMPATHETIC WHITES WILL PLAY
A SUPPORTIVE ROLE. MR. ISAACS SET AS BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT
THE SOUTH AFRICA STRUGGLE WAS ANTI-COLONIALIST AND ANTI-
IMPERIALIST AND THAT FREEDOM COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH
ARMED STRUGGLE.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE JAMAICANS MAY NOT TURN OUT

IN LARGE NUMBERS FOR OCCASIONS SUCH AS THIS, TWO FACTORS
SHOW THAT THEY SEE THEIR INTERESTS CLEARLY ON THE SIDE OF
THE OAU AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS:

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF MICHAEL MANLEY HAS GIVEN
UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT TO THE OAU AND THE LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS.

B. MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS OF
AFRICAN ORIGIN AND OVERWHELMINGLY IDENTIFIES WITH THE
MILITANT AFRICANS AGAINST EVERYONE THEY PERCEIVE TO BE
ON THE SIDE OF THE WHITE SUPREMACISTS.
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